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HBMA Forms ICD-10 Task Force

Healthcare Billing & Management Association and Other Organizations Will Work Toward Improving ICD-10 Planning, Outreach and Implementation

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. — July 14, 2009 — The Healthcare Billing & Management Association ([HBMA](#)), a non-profit educational resource and advocacy group representing third-party medical billers and billing professionals, announced today that it has formed an ICD-10 Task Force. The mission of this four-year standing committee will be to collaborate with the public sector and industry stakeholders to develop an ICD-10 implementation structure and resources to help minimize the cost, uncertainty and complexity of the transition to the new diagnostic code set.

“The magnitude of this administrative change will be far greater than anything the healthcare field has seen in our lifetimes,” says Holly Louie, RN, CHBME, PCS and chair of the ICD-10 Task Force. “If the transition to the new electronic standards and entirely new coding system is not well-planned, providers and their business partners could see major disruption. Our group has broad industry representation and we’ve been focusing on ways to minimize the impact while achieving the intended benefits.” Louie, corporate compliance officer at Practice Management, Inc, is also a member of the HBMA board of directors and the chair of the HBMA Ethics & Compliance committee.

Though the ICD-10 Task Force is led by HBMA, it is a collaboration representing the entire healthcare community, including participation from America’s Health Insurance Plans, CAQH, the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange, practice management software vendors, electronic medical record system vendors, coding professionals and others. The Task Force has designated liaisons to work with key stakeholders including the American Health Information Management Association, the American Medical Association and the Radiology Business Management Association. At a face-to-face meeting with representatives from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in June, CMS was invited to participate. The ICD-10 Task Force was established to prepare HBMA’s response to the Department of Health and Human Services’ proposed rules regarding ANSI 5010 and ICD-10 implementations, published October 21, 2008. That letter is available online at <http://tinyurl.com/ln3aw3>.

“A survey of HBMA members found that a large percentage of their client base, which includes office-based physicians, hospital-based physicians and other allied healthcare providers, do not have regular access to online resources,” says Louie. “Communicating with them, much less training them, can be challenging. That’s one of the reasons we believe this change will be stressful for physician practices. They need an advocate as well as information, education and resources.”

In collaboration with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the American Health Information Management Association, and other organizations, the ICD-10 Task Force will tackle issues relating to standard electronic transaction sets and the new code sets. The committee will promote a range of policies, testing periods, recommended deadlines, outreach programs and other measures intended to make the transition more manageable.



About HBMA

A non-profit, member-led trade association, the Healthcare Billing & Management Association (HBMA) represents more than 30,000 employees at well over 650 third-party medical billing firms. Annually, HBMA companies submit more than 350 million initial claims on behalf of hospital-based physicians, office-based physicians and other allied healthcare providers. Founded in 1993, HBMA and its members foster personal development, advocate on the behalf of the profession, and promote cooperation through a wide range of business resources, educational events, networking opportunities, certification programs and adherence to the Medical Biller's Code of Ethics. As the only trade association representing the interests of medical billers in Washington D.C., HBMA works with legislative stakeholders and federal agencies to improve the business of medical billing and the practice of healthcare. Learn more about how HBMA is elevating the medical billing profession at www.hbma.org.

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